

# BENEFITS NEWS

An Information Publication for State of California Employees

## 2008 Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Awards State Merit Award Program

Are you a hero or do you work with someone who acted courageously to help another human being? If yes, we really want to hear from you!

The Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Award is presented to employees for their courage, despite danger to themselves, on or off duty, and the program is administered by the Department of the Personnel Administration (DPA). Last year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presented Medal of Valor Awards to 31 State employees at a special afternoon ceremony honoring them for their heroic acts. That evening, Awardees joined the Governor and First Lady, Maria Shriver, at the annual lighting of the Governor's "Tree of Heroes" Ceremony, where a special ornament with each awardee's name was placed.

The Medal of Valor awards were established in 1959 to recognize individuals for heroism above and beyond the normal call of duty. Examples of heroic acts in the past have been entering a burning house to save someone's life; rescuing people trapped in a vehicle or under water; or foiling an attempted robbery or carjacking.

Do you know of someone who should be nominated for this prestigious award? Please contact your department or agency's Merit Award Administrator or Rita Maningo, Manager, Merit Award Program at 916-327-4024. The deadline to submit nominations to DPA is September 1, 2008.

### Two Types of Awards

There are two types of Medal of Valor awards:

**The Special Act (Gold Medal)** is given for an extraordinary act of heroism by a State employee extending far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at great risk to his/her own life in an effort to save human life.

**The Special Service (Silver Medal)** is given for an act of heroism by a State employee extending above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at personal risk to his/her property.

### Three Step Nomination Process

1. Nominations must be reviewed and signed by your Department/Agency Director/Commissioner. Nomination packets, featuring instructions and a fill and print DPA 012 form, can be downloaded from DPA's website at [www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/merit/dpa012.pdf](http://www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/merit/dpa012.pdf).
2. Your Department's Merit Award Administrator (MAA) must submit the completed and signed packet to DPA, Benefits Division, Merit Award Program for final review and approval.
3. Once approved, your Director will be notified and award ceremony arrangements will begin.

### Example of Past Awardees

*A Department of Conservation Engineering Geologist rescued two passengers from a car that was sinking off shore in Lake Mendocino.*

*Department of Fish and Game Lieutenant and Warden rescued a fellow Warden who was shot and wounded during a marijuana eradication detail.*

*Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE): two Fire Fighters and a Fire Captain rescued and evacuated a mother and son trapped in a burning house.*

*A Department of Mental Health Psychiatric Technician prevented an attempted carjacking and robbery.*

*A Department of Motor Vehicle Office Services Supervisor rescued an unconscious man from a burning vehicle.*

*A California Highway Patrol Officer saved a woman and stopped a suspect from a hostile knife attack.*

*A Department of Transportation Equipment Operator rescued a woman trapped in her vehicle on a steep embankment for 14 hours.*

### Additional Information

For additional information about the Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Awards Program, go to DPA's website at [www.dpa.ca.gov](http://www.dpa.ca.gov) (Information for Employees - click on Benefits, Awards, Medal of Valor, Special Act/Special Service).



### For More Information

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### DPA Fax Numbers

**Benefits Division**  
(916) 322-3769

**Savings Plus Program**  
(916) 327-1885

### Internet Address

[www.dpa.ca.gov](http://www.dpa.ca.gov)